

Guardianship /LIFEguardianship

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Guardianship Basics

- Guardianship is a legal relationship between an individual (the guardian) who has been given the legal authority and duty to make decisions on behalf of another individual (the ward) who lacks sufficient capacity to manage his or her own affairs or make and communicate important decisions.

Different Types of Guardianship

- There are basically three types of guardianship: (1) Guardianship of the Person, (2) Guardianship of the Estate, and (3) General guardianship.
- A guardian of the person has the authority to make decisions in most areas of the ward's/individual's personal life. On the other hand, a guardian of the estate has the authority to manage the ward's income and property. A general guardian has the duties of both the guardian of the person and the guardian of the estate.

LIFEguardianship

- **What is LIFEguardianship?**
 - LIFEguardianship is a division of The Arc of North Carolina, Inc., which amended its charter with the Secretary of State several years ago, and established LIFEguardianship Supports and Services to enable it to become a legal, corporate guardian for individuals whose family members are unable to be their guardian. It is a statewide program advocating to protect the health and safety of wards/individuals to ensure that their civil and human rights are not violated.

LIFEguardianship

- **Are LIFEguardianship services available across the state?**
 - Yes through LIFEguardianship Supports and Services
- **Who is eligible for LIFEguardianship?**
 - Any individual who is unable to make or communicate important decisions about their person, family, or estate and has no family members willing or able to become their guardian.

The Arc of NC Policy Agenda

- To ensure that guardianship in our state is stable and that there is a dedicated funding stream for this service.
- To continue to assist in creating a strong well trained group of guardianship specialists at The Arc of NC.
- To continue to work with all stakeholders to address the need for parents to be providers of services and to ensure that there are protections in place for the consumer of those services.